

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: SECURITY MEASURES USED TO PROTECT U.S. CONGRESS

REF: CANBERRA 1253

1. THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE SENATE AND THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS THAT THEY MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR PRESERVING THE PEACE, SECURING THE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE BUILDINGS AND THE U.S. CAPITOL FROM DEFACEMENT, THE PROTECTION OF U.S. SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, AND THEIR STAFF, AND ESTABLISHING DEFINITE HOURS DURING WHICH THE BUILDINGS SHALL BE OPENED AND CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE CAPITOL POLICE, UNDER THE PROVISION OF THESE REGULATIONS, POLICE THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FOR ANY VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OF THE U.S. OR ANY STATE, AND MAKE ARRESTS FOR ANY

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VIOLATION THEREOF. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS JOINT REGULATION ARE CONCURRED IN BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE U.S. SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

2. PROTECTIVE MEASURES PERFORMED BY THE CAPITOL POLICE INCLUDE:

A) CAPITOL POLICE ARE STRATEGICALLY STATIONED AT ALL ENTRANCES, ON ALL FLOORS, AND IN THE GALLERIES. THE OFFICERS, BOTH UNIFORMED AND PLAINCLOTHES, ARE ARMED AND HAVE RELIABLE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

B) ALL ENTRANTS TO THESE BUILDINGS EXCEPT SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, ARE SCREENED. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PERMIT THE OFFICER ON DUTY TO INSPECT BRIEFCASES, ATTACHE CASES, LUGGAGE, BAG, PACKAGE, CONTAINER, OR ITEM. THIS INSPECTION INCLUDES THE USE OF X-RAY EQUIPMENT AND METAL DETECTORS.

C) WHEN A SECTION OR WING IS CLOSED OFF TEMPORARILY, OR WHEN THE BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED DURING NIGHTTIME, WEEKENDS, OR HOLIDAYS, INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY THEIR CORRECT NAME AND THE OFFICE OR POSITION WHICH THEY HOLD, AND TO SIGN IN OR OUT, OR BOTH (AS THE CASE MAY BE).

D) THE CAPITOL POLICE HAVE THEIR OWN BOMB DETECTION SQUAD AND CANINE CORPS. THE DOGS ARE TRAINED PRIMARILY FOR EXPLOSIVE DETECTION.

E) THE CHIEF OF THE CAPITOL POLICE MONITORS EVENTS AND INCREASES CONCENTRATION OF PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHEN CONTROLLED.

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VERSIAL HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED.

F) IN CASES OF SPECIFIC THREAT AGAINST SENATORS OR CONGRESSMEN, CAPITOL POLICE ACCOMPANY THEM AND PROVIDE RESIDENCE PROTECTION.

3. ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

4. JOINT REGULATIONS OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE SENATE AND THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOW BY POUCH. VANCE

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